

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/807,444

Examiner

Dmitry Suhol

Applicant(s)

ARMSTRONG, RONALD G.

Art Unit

3725

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment filed 9/23/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 5-13.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

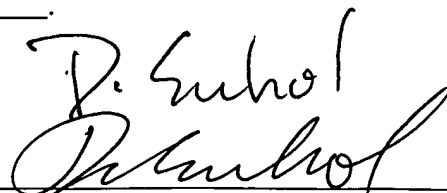
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 092005.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.



### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The specific limitations of (with respect to claim 1) "...the rear surface is covered with a second covering of a rigid thermoplastic polymer layer, said thermoplastic polymer layer having an inner surface facing said panel and an outer surface; said second covering of each of said plurality of panels being thermoformed with a plurality of ribs, and said second covering of at least one of said plurality of panels being thermoformed with a centrally located recessed area; whereby said ribs provide a high degree of rigidity to the rear surface of each said panel, and the recessed area provides further structural integrity to said at least one panel as well as providing an area to which a logo or other advertising indicia may be affixed..." and (with respect to claim 10) "...said rigid material covering the rear surface of each said panels being thermoformed with a plurality of ribs, and said rigid material covering the rear surface of at least one of said plurality of panels being thermoformed with a centrally located recessed area; whereby said ribs provide a high degree of rigidity to the rear surface of each said panel, and the recessed area provides further structural integrity to said at least one panel as well as providing an area to which a logo or other advertising indicia may be affixed..." are not anticipated or made obvious over the prior art of record in the examiners opinion. For example, Kemeny teaches a plurality of lightweight rigid panels (20) having a front surface and a back surface where the front surface is covered with a hook fastener compatible material (fabric 44, col. 5, lines 9-15), a the rear surface being covered with rigid material (backing sheet 42, col. 5, lines 1-3), a rigid support frame (frame 22), a hinge

(24). The rear surface of each panel being formed of a thermoplastic polymer is described in col. 5, lines 1-3. Millgate discloses a foldable presentation display which teaches that it is known that such case have a panel with a handle fixedly secured thereto (handle 71). Arico teaches that it is known to manufacture such devices with a centrally positioned panel having ribs for the purpose of improved structural integrity (col. 4, lines 10-16). However, prior art of record fails to teach a rear panel of a display board having ribs and a centrally located recessed area for providing structural integrity. It should be noted that Arico explicitly teaches away from applicants claimed structure in that Arico provides a rear covering (38) for the ribbed panel (12) in order for increased strength and to hide the panel (col. 5, lines 49-57) and therefore using panel 12 as the rear panel would not have been obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dmitry Suhol whose telephone number is 571-272-4430. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Friday 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on (571) 272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Dmitry Suhol  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3725

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434/430

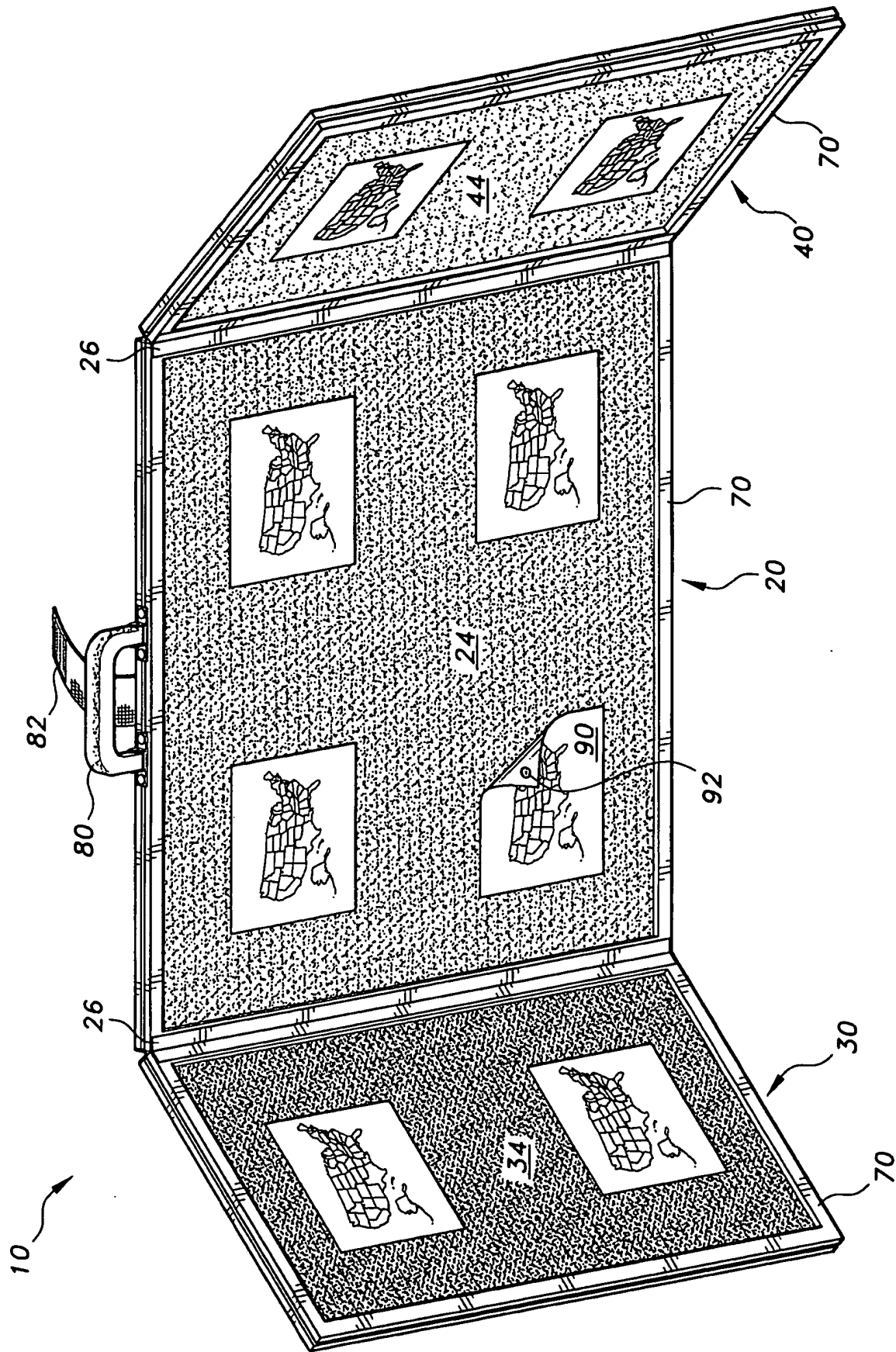


FIG. 1

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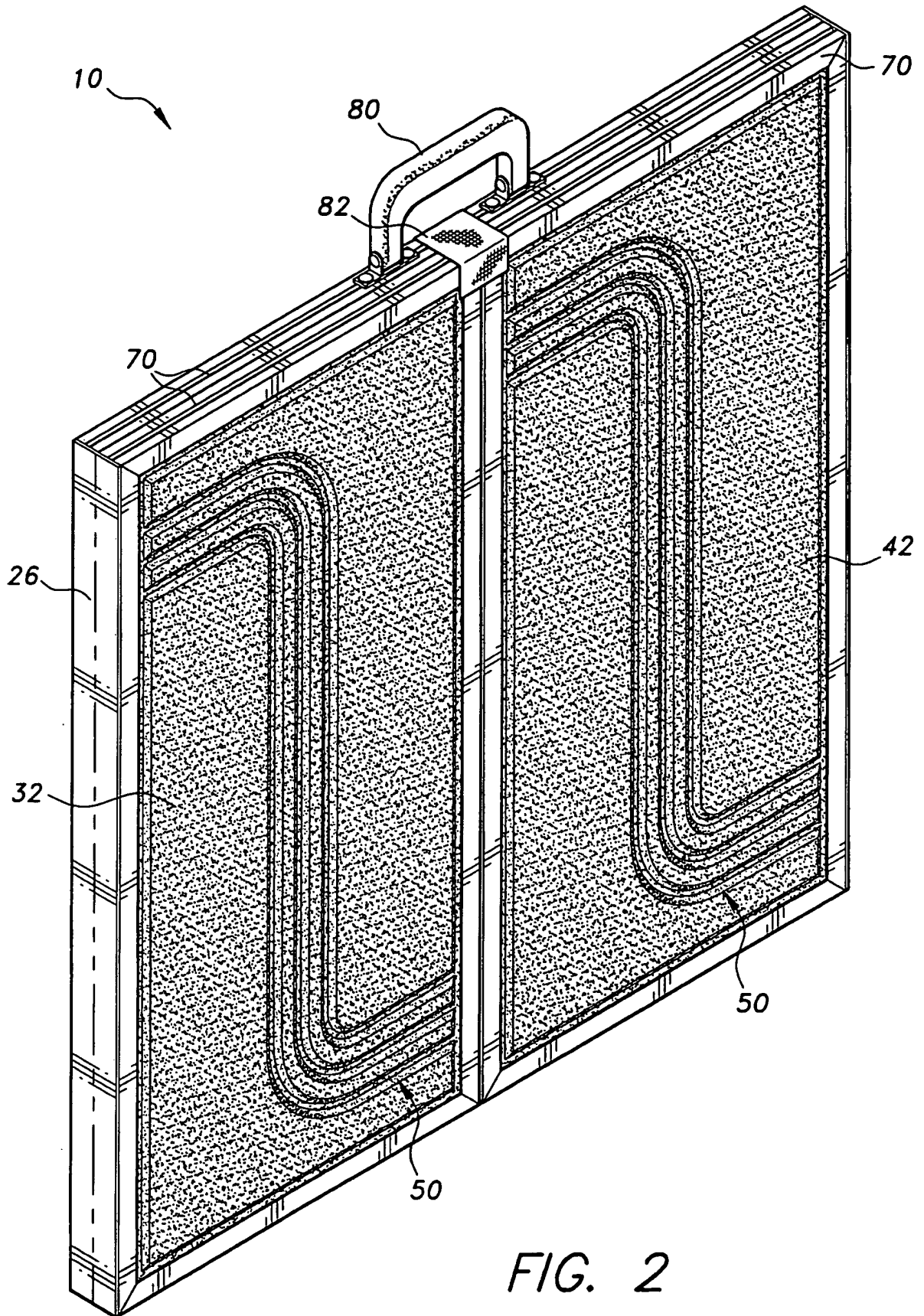


FIG. 2

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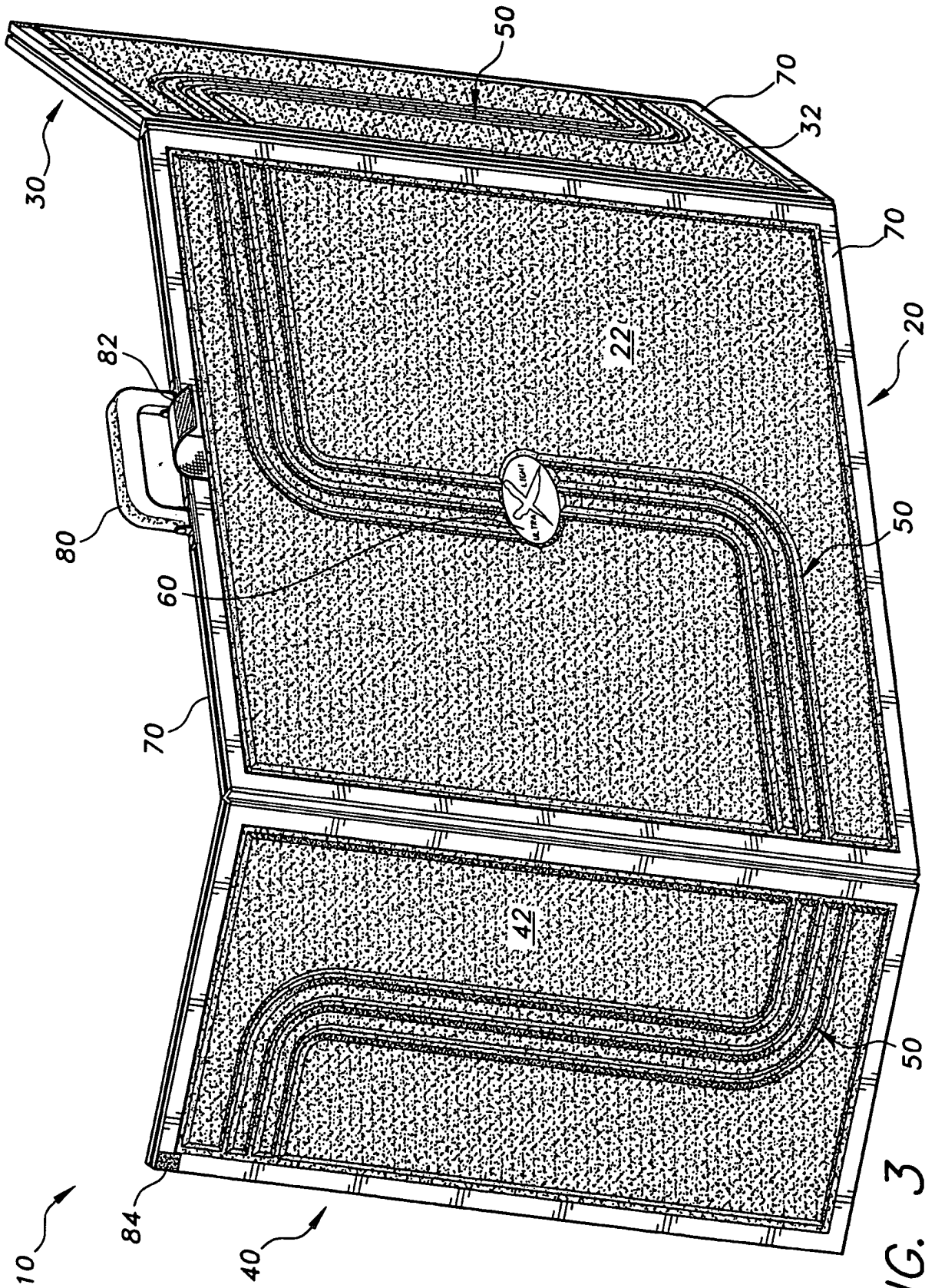


FIG. 3

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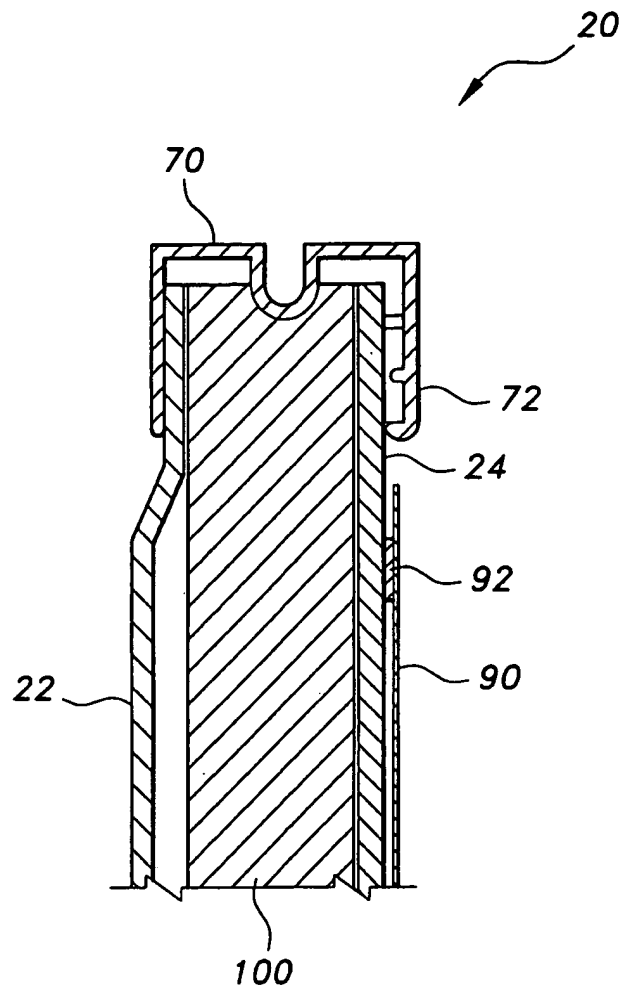


FIG. 4